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Attachment to Z-15879/83

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NPIC/PEG (12/83)

**PROBABLE ARMS TRANSSHIPMENT**  
**EL BLUFF PORT FACILITY, NICARAGUA**

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1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** PROBABLE ARMS TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITY IS IN PROGRESS NEAR EL BLUFF. (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** A GEROI PANFILOVTSY-CLASS MERSHIP, PROBABLY BULGARIAN, HAS ARRIVED OFFSHORE FROM EL BLUFF PORT FACILITY [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH NO MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS OBSERVED, A NUMBER OF FACTORS SUGGEST THAT AN ARMS TRANSSHIPMENT IS IN PROCESS. THE NICARAGUAN ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF (RO/RO) SHIP 'NICARAO' AND ONE SMALL MERSHIP ARE ALONGSIDE THE GEROI PANFILOVTSY-CLASS MERSHIP. ALSO, TWO PROBABLE PATROL BOATS AND A SECOND SMALL MERSHIP ARE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. NORMALLY THE 'NICARAO' IS USED TO TRANSFER HEAVY MILITARY CARGO FROM EL BLUFF TO RAMA PORT FACILITIES [REDACTED], WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 50 NM UP THE RIO ESCONDIDO. THE TRANSFER OF CARGO FROM LARGER SHIPS TO SHALLOW-DRAFT RO/RO SHIPS IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE SHALLOW RIVER DEPTH AND LIMITED FACILITIES AT RAMA. IN ADDITION, AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ARE AT EL BLUFF AIRFIELD [REDACTED] AIRCRAFT PRESENT INCLUDE TWO SF.260 LIGHT-STRIKE AIRCRAFT, ONE PROBABLE TWIN OTTER LIGHT TRANSPORT, ONE COLT LIGHT TRANSPORT, AND ONE HIP MEDIUM HELICOPTER. A SIMILAR DEPLOYMENT OF AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN OBSERVED DURING ARMS TRANSSHIPMENT THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST. THE AIRCRAFT MAY PROVIDE INCREASED SECURITY FOR THE AREA AND/OR RAPID TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONNEL OR EQUIPMENT. (SWN)
3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 11-59-40N 083-40-39W

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**WARNING NOTICE**  
Intelligence Sources  
and Methods Involved

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